

Message from the Director

2014 was another busy year at the library. I have listed some 2014 highlights elsewhere in this report, but wanted to focus on one item in my message—the Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study project over the course of the year that culminated in a document dated November 17, 2014. The report by SHKS Architects and BERK Consulting represented the combined efforts of the City, library staff, the Library Foundation and many other community stakeholders, and put new library advocates on much sounder and more informed footing about what the community wanted and needed in a new library. Much work remains to be done, but these are exciting times!

One of the underpinning priorities established by the Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study was the need to work collaboratively and with appropriate partners in the effort to bring a new library to Mount Vernon. This (working collaboratively and in appropriate partnerships) is an existing everyday core value for library staff. We work with other City Departments, with other libraries and with other community organizations to provide the best library service possible. That is our commitment to you, our valued customers, patrons, supporters.

Brian Soneda
Library Director



Vigorous discussion at the Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study Open House on April 10, 2014.



City of Mount Vernon

Jill Boudreau, Mayor

2015 Library Board of Trustees

Laura Riquelme, Chair
Bill Craig, Vice Chair
Marija Anderson, Secretary
Carrie Odlin
Hal Verrell

Library Hours

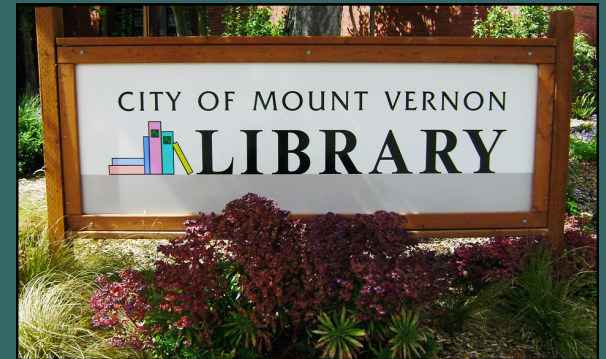
Monday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Thursday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Holidays

The Library is closed on the following holidays:

New Years Day
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Presidents' Day
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Veterans' Day
Thanksgiving
Day after Thanksgiving
Christmas Day

2014 Annual Report



**Mount Vernon City Library – the
Heart of Our Thriving Community**

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Mount Vernon, WA 98273**

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www.mountvernonwa.gov/library



Message from the Board Chair

It was with pleasure that I served as the Chair of the Library's Board of Trustees for 2014.

Many folks may not be aware of the duties of the library board of trustees. The board is made up of five of your fellow citizens, appointed by the mayor to five-year terms, to perform several functions that advise and assist the library director in the performance of his duties. The board members are myself, Marija Anderson, Carrie Odlin, Laura Riquelme, and our newest member, Hal Verrell, who was appointed in January of 2015.



Among other things, trustees are tasked by city ordinance to hear citizen requests to reconsider the selection of library materials as part of the library's collection. Every month, the trustees look over the materials that staff have removed in order to not overburden the space provided for the more than 88,000 items in the library's collection. We vote on removed items and authorize their surplus to the Friends of the Library for resale.

The library board also adopts policies for our patrons. For example, we have reworded policies regarding use of computers not only for the safety of users, but to protect their constitutional rights, as well. We also have provided feedback to the director and his staff in the reworking of a policy that addresses the supervision of children by their caregivers in the library. All of the library policies are in accordance with all applicable laws and ordinances.

The trustees work with the director to ensure that the library's budget is appropriate to deliver services meeting the needs of the public. The library's budget is ultimately approved by the city council. For several years now, as the city continues to work with diminished resources, providing residents with superior service at the library has been a challenge but one that the director and staff are meeting. Finally, the board submits an annual performance review of the library director to the mayor. In 2014, the board evaluated the director using a format different from previous years in order to provide to the mayor with a more realistic picture from those who do not interact with the director on a daily basis. Our trustees also ask library staff

to participate in the director's review, as well. These tools ensure that city residents are receiving the best service as possible from its library director.

The trustees take their tasks seriously. We want the city of Mount Vernon to have the best library that meets residents' needs as well as one that keeps up with societal changes. We also are very excited to be a part of the process to bring a new library in our community. We are working alongside the library foundation, the director and other city officials, and staff to bring this about

Bill Craig

2014 Chair, Library Board of Trustees

2014 Highlights

- ◆ The library hosted a "Read the Book/See the Movies" event (the first two movies in The Hobbit trilogy) at the Lincoln Theatre on July 26. It was a great success, along with the BBQ and Ice Cream Social between movies in Pine Square. All of this was made possible through the funds from an Elks Beacon Grant and the generous in-person help by numerous Elks. The Elks subsequently made another grant in 2014 in support of Early Learning materials at the library and the Juvenile Detention Center Book Group.
- ◆ Friends of the Mount Vernon Library Book Sales in April and September generated significant funding for library support items like furniture, special author events and Summer Reading Program reading incentives.



Deputy Director Sara Holahan works with patrons on the new Learning Lab funded by SPEEA.

- ◆ SPEEA (the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace), the State Library (through Library Services and Technology Act funds) and the Friends of the Mount Vernon Library made significant grants in 2014 in support of our technology offerings.

2014 Service Measures

Days open	304
Total Items circulated	361,338
eBooks & eAudio circulated	14,061
Items used in the library	39,265
Items in collection	86,556
Withdrawn or missing	10,858
Library attendance	180,351
Program attendance	14,753
Internet terminal customers	3,383
Summer Reading participants	1,125
Volunteer Hours	1,375

2014 Financial Summary

2014 Library Budget \$1,186,849

Revenue	
(beginning fund equity)	\$61,040
(from property taxes)	\$1,031,509
(from fines and forfeits)	\$31,400
(from charges for services)	\$26,400
(from Skagit County)	\$17,000
(misc)	\$19,500

